High powered committee regarding wasteland reforms and land reforms

383. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land found to be wasteland as on date and the percentage of such land *vis-a-vis* the total land;

(b) whether Government have constituted a high powered committee to invite suggestions regarding land reforms and wasteland development; and

(c) if so, the basis adopted for selection of the members of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) According to the Wastelands Atlas of India (2000) prepared by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) Hyderabad, there are 63.85 m.ha. of wasteland in the country. It constitutes 20.17% of the geographical area of the country.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Computerization of Tehsils in Orissa

384. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has granted financial aid for computerization of 171 tehsils in Orissa, if so, amount of Central aid so sanctioned;

(b) whether Government propose to oversee the progress of works; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far and the time by when the records of all the tehsils in the State would be computerized?